



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
-----------------	-------------	----------------------	---------------------	------------------

10/587,698

07/27/2006

Manfred Meinherz

2004P00850

3531

24131 7590 11/07/2008
LERNER GREENBERG STEMER LLP
P O BOX 2480
HOLLYWOOD, FL 33022-2480

EXAMINER

FISHMAN, MARINA

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2832

MAIL DATE

DELIVERY MODE

11/07/2008

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/587,698	Applicant(s) MEINHERZ, MANFRED	
	Examiner Marina Fishman	Art Unit 2832	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 12 – 21 and 23 is/are pending in the application.
4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 12 – 21 and 23 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____. |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date ____. | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ____. |

DETAILED ACTION

General status

1. This is a Final Action on the Merits. Claims 12 – 21 and 23 are pending in the case and are being examined.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

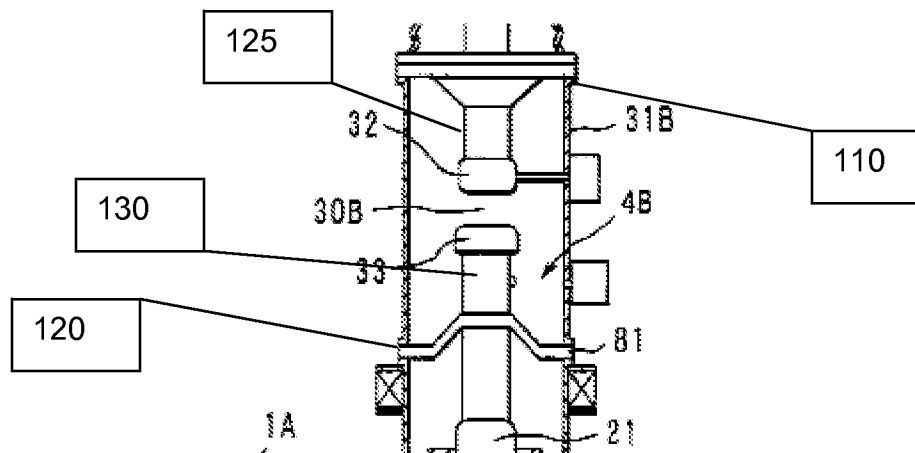
2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

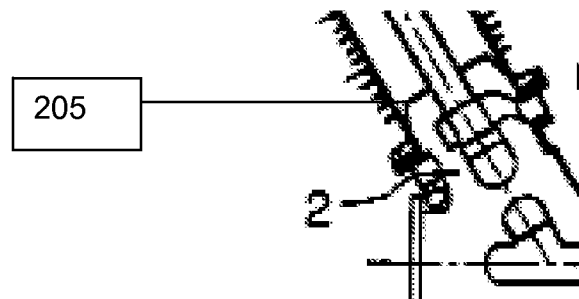
3. Claims 12 – 21 and 23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Furuta et al. [US 6,538,224] in view of Rokunohe et al. [US 6,680,453].

Regarding Claim 12, Furuta et al. disclose a compressed-gas-insulated switch-disconnector module comprising:

- an electrically conductive housing [31b, Figure 12] having first and second flanges [100, 110];
- switching contacts [32, 33];
- a main axis [not numbered];
- first and second electrical phase conductors [125, 130] extended along the main axis for connection at an isolating gap [at 30B];
- the first phase conductor passing through the first flange [110]; the second phase conductor passing through the second flange [120];



Furuta et al. disclose claimed invention except for a tubular electrode connected to the housing, concentrically surrounding the first phase conductor and radially disposed inside the first flange and projecting beyond the first flange.



Rokunohe et al. [Figure 16] disclose a disconnector [2] with a top flange and a tubular electrode [205] connected to the housing, concentrically surrounding the first phase conductor and radially disposed inside the first flange and projecting beyond the first flange. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide a tubular electrode connected to the housing, concentrically surrounding the first phase conductor and radially disposed inside the first flange and projecting beyond the first flange, in Furuta et al., as suggested by Rokunohe, in order to provide a shield around the first conductor.

Regarding Claims 13 and 14, Furuta et al. disclose the first and second flanges to be coaxial. Furuta also discloses current transformer below the second flange [120]. The second does have an outside which can be a holding device for the transformer. It would have been obvious to reposition the transformer above the second flange level, in order to measure the current close to the gap. Regarding Claim 15, Furuta does disclose first and second flanges, but does not specify the relative circumferences of the flanges. It would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide first flange with larger circumference, than the second flange, in order to better support the insulator. Regarding Claim 16, the modified disconnecter of Furuta will have the tubular electrode, supported by the housing. Regarding Claim 17, the limitation "cast onto the housing" is a method step limitation in an article claim, and the disclosed electrode is capable of being cast onto the housing. Regarding Claim 19, Furuta et al. disclose a grounding switch [4b] interior of the housing for grounding the phase conductor; an insulating casing [12B]; a portion of the housing above the second flange is taken as a stub and the modified device of Furuta et al. will have a toroidal transformer disposed around the stub, also the stub area in the housing will have a common gas area. Regarding claims 20 and 21, Furuta et al. disclose the instant claimed invention including support [62, Figure 14]; it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to provide a pillar support, as suggested by embodiment of Figure 14, in Figure 12, to add rigidity to the first contact and conductor. Regarding Claim 23, the device of Furuta et al., as modified by Rokunohe et al. will have a (tubular) electrode, the insulating casing and the housing defines a

Art Unit: 2832

connecting area therebetween and the (tubular) electrode extends coaxially relative to the first phase conductor and shields the connecting area.

Response to Arguments

4. Applicant's arguments filed August 12, 2008 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

The Applicant, on page 11 of Remark has stated that if this line in Figure 16 of Rokunhoe is 'tubular electrode', applicant can not find any explanation for or description of the line reference in the bushings 6a, 6b, 6c of figure 16. Examiner is aware of the fact that the specification of Rokunhoe does not describe the tubular electrode; however the tubular electrode is shown in figures 16, 17 and 18. Providing a tubular electrode concentrically surrounding the phase conductor is well known in the art. For example, previously cited art of Calvino [US 4,486,633] discloses such electrode in Figure 4, with corresponding description in column 3, lines 30 - 33 and 41 - 43. The Examiner has also cited Smith [US 6,242,902], which also discloses a tubular electrode in Figure 7.

Conclusion

5. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any

Art Unit: 2832

extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Marina Fishman whose telephone number is (571)272-1991. The examiner can normally be reached on 7-5 M-T.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Elvin Enad can be reached on 571-272-1990. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Elvin G Enad/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2832

/Marina Fishman/
Examiner, Art Unit 2832
November 2, 2008

Application/Control Number: 10/587,698
Art Unit: 2832

Page 7